

California Assessment System, 2021

TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS: California’s academic standards—the things we want students to know and be able to do—are designed so students graduate ready for college and career. Students across California in grades 3-8 and high school take the California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CAASPP) assessments each spring. The online tests were created specifically to gauge each student’s performance in English language arts/literacy (ELA), mathematics, and science. These tests measure the skills called for by the academic standards, including the ability to write clearly, think critically, and solve problems.

The English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) measure how well English learner students are progressing with English language development in each of four domains: Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

IMPORTANT: Parents/Guardians have the right to exempt their child from CAASPP assessments pursuant to CA *EdCode* Section 60615. You may annually submit a written request to the principal of your child’s school to excuse your child from any or all parts of state assessments.

Test	Grades Tested	Content Area	When
Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (SBAC)	Grades 3 – 8, 11	English language arts/literacy Mathematics	March 22 – June 9
California Science Test (CAST)	Grades 5, 8, 11, 12	Science	March 22 – June 9
California Alternate Assessment (CAA) *	Grades 3-8, 11	English language arts/literacy Mathematics	March 22 – June 9
California Alternate Assessment-Science (CAA-Science) *	Grades 5, 8, 11, 12	Science	March 22 – June 9
California Spanish Assessment (CSA)	Grades 3-8, 11 Optional	Reading language arts in Spanish	March 2 – June 10

Test – English Learner Students Only	Grades Tested	Content Area	When
English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)	Grades K-12	English language proficiency in Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing	February 1 – May 28
Alternate English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (Alt-ELPAC) *	Grades K-12 English Learners Only	English language proficiency in Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing	January 12 – February 16

* Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, as designated in their individualized education program (IEP), are eligible to take alternate assessments.

Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments (SBAC)

The Smarter Balanced Summative Assessments, which are delivered by computer, consist of two sections: a computer adaptive test and a performance task (PT) based on the State Standards for ELA and mathematics. The computer adaptive section includes a range of item types, such as selected response, constructed response, table, fill-in, graphing, and so forth. The PTs are extended activities that measure a student's ability to integrate knowledge and skills across multiple standards—a key component of college and career readiness. More information is available on the CDE Web page [Here](#).

To learn more about these tests, please visit CAASPP Starting Smarter Web page [Here](#) which provides informative guides, practice tests, and test score descriptions as well as sample test items at different levels of difficulty.

California Alternate Assessments (CAA)

Students in grades three through eight and grade 11 who have an IEP that designates the use of an alternate assessment are eligible to take the CAA in ELA and mathematics. The goal of the CAA is to ensure that students with the most significant cognitive disabilities attain increasingly higher achievement levels and leave high school ready for academic or career options. The test items are aligned with the State Standards for ELA and mathematics and are based on the Core Content Connectors. The CAAs are computer-based two-stage adaptive tests. They are administered to students in a one-on-one environment by a test examiner who is familiar with the student. Information about the alternate assessments and the alternate achievement standards can be found on the CDE Web page [Here](#).

California Science Tests (CAST)

The CAST is part of California's state testing program. Working with science teachers, California developed assessments that emphasize scientific thinking and reasoning. CAST measures what students know and can do and foster science education at every grade level. More information is available on the CDE's Web page [Here](#).

Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, as designated by their IEP, are eligible to take the California Alternate Assessment for Science. If you would like more information or resources about alternate assessments, please visit the CDE's CAASPP Alternate Assessments Web page [Here](#).

Summative English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC)

The purpose of the Summative ELPAC is to measure progress toward English proficiency, to help inform proper educational placements, and to help determine if a student is ready to be reclassified. Results on the ELPAC are important to ensure students continue to receive the support they need to do well in school. For more information please visit the CDE's ELPAC Web page [Here](#).

California Spanish Assessment (CSA)

The CSA is an optional test that assesses students' skills in reading, writing mechanics, and listening using the State Standards en Español. The purpose of the CSA is to give students information on their Spanish competency and help identify gaps in knowledge or skills to be on track to graduate biliterate. Sample test questions on the training tests can be found on the CAASPP Web Portal [Here](#).

Testing Designated Supports and Accommodations

Students with an IEP or Section 504 Plan are allowed designated supports and/or accommodations such as large print, Braille, or the use of a scribe. Designated supports are also available to any student for whom the need has been indicated by an educator (or team of educators with parent/guardian and student). To review the full range of assessment resources for all students, visit the Student Accessibility Resources Web page [Here](#).